Reported killing of elephants in the National Park, Mudumalai

1523. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Statesman of 12th June, 1986 under the caption "Official connivance with poachers in the South", regarding the killing of elephants in the National Park at Mudumalai;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the erring officials; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to a report received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, there is no involvement of officials.

(c) Does not arise.

New strategy to combat terrorism

1524. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has planned to devise a new strategy to combat terrorism which is prevailing in different parts of the country and particularly in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have taken various steps to deal with terrorist activities. These steps include enactment of laws, giving power to the law enforcing agencies to take legal action and administrative measures like streamlining of intelligence set up, strengthening and modernisation of police arrangements in Punjab and other States and on borders and providing of assistance of para-military forces to State Governments.

"Preservation of wetlands in the country"

1525. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need to preserve wetlands in the country;

(b) if so, whether a decision is likely to be taken to stop reclamation of tropical wetlands for modern uses in view of its natural functions;

(c) whether it is a fact that coastal wetlands in the country provide economic sustenance to millions of the rural masses; and

(d) if so, whether urgent measures are likely to be taken to preserve Pulicat Coastal lake sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh where the State Government propose to denotify 12,000 acres of wetlands for seting up a marine chemical unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is for the State Government to take necessary action in this case.

Incident of acid rain in India

1526. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incident of acid rain has taken place in the country recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) which areas are threatened by acid rain;